

Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Benefit-Cost Results

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our [Technical Documentation](#).

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

Adult Criminal Justice

Program name	Date of last literature review	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non-taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Chance benefits will exceed costs
Employment & job training assistance during incarceration	Sep. 2015	\$34,860	\$10,092	\$24,768	(\$465)	\$34,396	\$75.04	99 %
Electronic monitoring (probation)	Dec. 2014	\$25,739	\$7,160	\$18,579	\$1,124	\$26,863	n/a	94 %
Therapeutic communities for offenders with co-occurring disorders	Nov. 2014	\$25,848	\$7,975	\$17,872	(\$3,738)	\$22,109	\$6.91	99 %
Correctional education (basic or post-secondary) in prison	Oct. 2015	\$21,788	\$6,449	\$15,339	(\$1,187)	\$20,601	\$18.36	100 %
Offender Re-entry Community Safety Program (dangerously mentally ill offenders)	Apr. 2012	\$55,488	\$22,404	\$33,083	(\$36,283)	\$19,204	\$1.53	90 %
Day reporting centers	Mar. 2015	\$22,489	\$6,958	\$15,531	(\$3,940)	\$18,549	\$5.71	92 %
Vocational education in prison	Aug. 2015	\$20,064	\$6,017	\$14,048	(\$1,653)	\$18,411	\$12.13	100 %
Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (for drug offenders)	Apr. 2012	\$19,867	\$5,875	\$13,993	(\$1,610)	\$18,257	\$12.34	98 %
Mental health courts	May. 2014	\$19,080	\$5,941	\$13,140	(\$3,067)	\$16,014	\$6.22	99 %
Electronic monitoring (parole)	Dec. 2014	\$14,342	\$3,963	\$10,379	\$1,125	\$15,467	n/a	100 %
Outpatient/non-intensive drug treatment (incarceration)	Nov. 2014	\$15,060	\$4,475	\$10,585	(\$935)	\$14,125	\$16.10	100 %
Swift and Certain sanctions for offenders on community supervision	Oct. 2015	\$13,356	\$3,699	\$9,658	\$696	\$14,052	n/a	100 %
Inpatient/intensive outpatient drug treatment (incarceration)	Nov. 2014	\$15,445	\$4,682	\$10,763	(\$1,599)	\$13,846	\$9.66	100 %
Sex offender treatment in the community	Dec. 2013	\$14,464	\$3,478	\$10,987	(\$1,664)	\$12,800	\$8.69	93 %
Risk Need & Responsivity supervision (for high and moderate risk offenders)	Dec. 2013	\$17,125	\$5,642	\$11,483	(\$5,005)	\$12,121	\$3.42	100 %
Jail diversion programs for offenders with mental illness (post-arrest programs)	Mar. 2015	\$5,044	(\$3,760)	\$8,803	\$5,618	\$10,661	n/a	61 %
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) (for high- and moderate-risk offenders)	Aug. 2014	\$10,483	\$3,079	\$7,405	(\$433)	\$10,050	\$24.19	100 %
Therapeutic communities for chemically dependent offenders (community)	Nov. 2014	\$11,503	\$3,499	\$8,004	(\$1,562)	\$9,941	\$7.37	100 %
Case management: swift & certain/graduated sanctions for substance abusing offenders	Dec. 2012	\$14,263	\$4,762	\$9,501	(\$4,996)	\$9,267	\$2.85	95 %
Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (for property offenders)	Dec. 2012	\$10,627	\$3,249	\$7,378	(\$1,609)	\$9,018	\$6.60	70 %
Drug courts	Aug. 2014	\$13,015	\$4,098	\$8,917	(\$4,984)	\$8,031	\$2.61	100 %
Employment & job training assistance in the community	May. 2015	\$8,441	\$2,469	\$5,972	(\$464)	\$7,977	\$18.17	99 %
Work release	Aug. 2015	\$6,450	\$1,959	\$4,492	(\$693)	\$5,757	\$9.30	99 %
Correctional industries in prison	Aug. 2015	\$6,437	\$2,071	\$4,366	(\$1,493)	\$4,945	\$4.31	100 %
Therapeutic communities for chemically dependent offenders (incarceration)	Nov. 2014	\$9,892	\$3,590	\$6,303	(\$5,004)	\$4,888	\$1.98	94 %
Outpatient/non-intensive drug treatment (community)	Nov. 2014	\$4,712	\$1,461	\$3,251	(\$854)	\$3,858	\$5.52	91 %
Sex offender treatment during incarceration	Dec. 2013	\$8,813	\$2,602	\$6,212	(\$5,222)	\$3,591	\$1.69	75 %
Intensive supervision (surveillance & treatment)	Apr. 2012	\$11,508	\$4,440	\$7,069	(\$8,231)	\$3,278	\$1.40	73 %
Restorative justice conferencing	Oct. 2015	\$3,767	\$1,224	\$2,543	(\$1,081)	\$2,686	\$3.49	70 %
Inpatient/intensive outpatient drug treatment (community)	Nov. 2014	\$1,233	\$501	\$732	(\$1,045)	\$188	\$1.18	51 %

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Case management: not swift and certain for substance abusing offenders	Nov. 2015	\$3,183	\$1,614	\$1,569	(\$5,000)	(\$1,817)	\$0.64	33 %
Intensive supervision (surveillance only)	Apr. 2012	(\$3,316)	(\$326)	(\$2,990)	(\$4,330)	(\$7,646)	(\$0.77)	5 %
Domestic violence perpetrator treatment (Duluth-based model)	Aug. 2014	(\$8,000)	(\$2,074)	(\$5,925)	(\$1,434)	(\$9,433)	(\$5.58)	17 %
Prison								
For lower risk offenders, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months	Oct. 2013	(\$4,140)	(\$790)	(\$3,350)	\$5,814	\$1,673	n/a	71 %
For moderate risk offenders, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months	Oct. 2013	(\$14,510)	(\$2,237)	(\$12,273)	\$5,818	(\$8,693)	n/a	11 %
For high risk offenders, decrease prison average daily population by 250, by lowering length of stay by 3 months	Oct. 2013	(\$40,980)	(\$5,272)	(\$35,708)	\$5,818	(\$35,163)	n/a	1 %
Police (results per-officer)								
Deploy one additional police officer with hot spots strategies	Oct. 2013	\$569,197	\$70,385	\$498,811	(\$95,560)	\$473,637	\$5.96	100 %
Deploy one additional police officer with statewide average practices	Oct. 2013	\$491,414	\$60,352	\$431,062	(\$91,001)	\$400,413	\$5.40	100 %

Other Adult Criminal Justice topics reviewed:

Program name	Date of last literature review	Notes
Dialectical Behavior Therapy	Sep. 2015	Click for meta-analytic results
Domestic violence perpetrator treatment (Non-Duluth models)	Aug. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Driving Under the Influence (DUI) court	Feb. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Housing supports for offenders returning to the community	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
Ignition interlock devices for alcohol-related offenses	Mar. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Parenting programs (during incarceration)	Nov. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Veteran's courts	Nov. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Adult boot camps	Oct. 2006	See previous WSIPP publication for past findings.
Life skills education programs	Oct. 2006	See previous WSIPP publication for past findings.
Sex offender community notification and registration	Jun. 2009	See previous WSIPP publication for past findings.

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Washington State Institute for Public Policy

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